



Dear Friends,

This time of year, our inboxes are full of expressions of gratitude. We have a lot to be grateful for, and so it's wonderful to take a moment to take stock and say thanks.

Thanks to you for your diligence and hard work during these past several years of unpredictable challenges. The arts in Maine are buoyed by your efforts, and although we don't say it enough, Maine is a better place to live because of our artists, creative workers, and arts organization. Thank you!

That said, we all know that we have a lot of work to do if we're going to make progress addressing the divisiveness that exists in our various communities; if we're going to make collective progress on addressing the challenges of climate change, the economic and structural inequities that are so prevalent; and our on-going understanding of how the pandemic of the last two years has changed us.

For the past 18 months, the Maine Arts Commission has been engaged in a process of creating a new strategic plan that will guide our work through 2028. The plan has been delayed allowing us to listen to focus groups across the state and engage both the staff and commission members in a robust

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conversation about the key role the Maine Arts Commission can plan in the state.

As we edge into a draft of the plan that will be shared with the cultural community in the coming weeks, we'll be focusing on four areas of need:

Serving

MAC will be a more widely known and trusted service provider, partner, and helper to artists and arts organizations all across Maine, providing tools, information, and professional development helping them successfully build audiences, art appreciators, supporters, and partners in their communities.

Connecting

MAC will cultivate relationships and build stronger alliances at the state and local levels. We will increase sharing, learning, and partnership building. We will help the arts become even more cohesive, integral, and valued partners in ways that increase their value and recognition as catalysis for building successful communities and improving life in our state.

Funding

In addition to striving to increase appropriations to the Arts Commission for funding to artists and arts organizations, we will work to cultivate, partner and leverage additional investment at the local, regional, state, and national levels to broaden the pool of funds that will support the creation and impacts of the arts in Maine.

Advancing

We will work to build a more innovative creative community through cross sector partnerships, professional development and programming so that the artists, arts workers, and arts organizations have the tools to become more integral in the lives of all Mainers, especially in traditionally under resourced communities.

There will be much more to come, but these four focus areas are the root of our plan draft. As we pause to share our gratitude, we want to reiterate our desire to continue the conversation about the ways our work can support and augment your work.

-David Greenham

Executive Director

Maine Arts Commission



[Join Our Mailing List](#)



Eli Cabañas Joins Maine Arts Commission

We are thrilled to welcome our new Grants & Website Manager, Eli Cabañas to the team. Eli joins the Maine Arts Commission with over 15 years of web design and development experience. He spent most of his career in New York City using his background in economics, video production, and website design to bring content and stories to life for financial companies and news organizations. Eli left the city in 2016 to be closer to his family. He moved to Friendship, Maine where he was immersed into a wonderful life of art and lobstering. Most mornings he worked as a sternman out of Friendship Harbor. He also worked with artists to create digital and physical presences throughout the mid-coast community. Equipped with a diverse skillset, he hopes to do his part to celebrate and support the arts throughout the state.



**BENEFITS
SPOTLIGHT**



**Professional Development for Staff Through
A Discounted MANP Membership**



Regularly investing in the growth and learning of your employees is essential to both talent retention and mission impact.

- Check out live in-person and virtual events on a range of topics on [MANP's upcoming events calendar](#) (more events are added each month)!
- Too busy to tune in live? MANP members can also tap into [on-demand learning](#) opportunities through the free webinar library and self paced courses and certificates.

If you're an arts organization signing up or renewing your membership with MANP, be sure to check out the free webinar:

[Make the Most of MANP: An Intro for Arts Organizations](#)

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (EST)

Zoom

Add to
Calendar

Discounted MANP memberships are available for arts aligned 501c3 nonprofits with operating expenses under \$1 million, as well as any BIPOC led arts nonprofit, regardless of size. **Current and new arts aligned MANP members are also eligible for the discount.** [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more>

[Cost for Membership](#)

Annual Operating Expenses	Dues
Under \$25,000	\$100 \$50
\$25,000 to \$99,999	\$125 \$62.50
\$100,000 to \$174,999	\$165 \$82.50
\$175,000 to \$249,999	\$220 \$110
\$250,000 to \$324,999	\$250 \$125
\$325,000 to \$399,999	\$325 \$162.50
\$400,000 to \$499,999	\$375 \$187.50
\$500,000 to \$599,999	\$425 \$212.50
\$600,000 to \$749,999	\$475 \$237.50
\$750,000 to \$999,999	\$525 \$262.50
\$1M to \$2M	\$600
\$2M to \$10M	\$675
\$10M+	\$750

[A Master and His Apprentice Keep the Art of Snowshoe Making Alive](#)

[Maine Magazine | December 2022](#)

It's great to see traditional snowshoe makers from Aroostook County gracing the front of Maine Magazine. Brian continues to teach apprentices the traditional craft, and his father, Edmond was named a Maine Artist Fellow in 2017.





"Another snowstorm is forecast for the weekend. But this afternoon, Theriault is spending a couple of hours with 13-year-old Bret Babin, whose family lives nearby. Babin notes it's his fifth visit so far to the workshop, where he learns from the master snowshoe maker about the history of snowshoes—and how to craft them of freshly cut wood and rawhide using traditional methods. It's an apprenticeship made possible through an award from the Maine Arts Commission."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE:](#)

Writer: Sandy Lang

Photographer: Peter Frank Edwards



**Funding
available for 6
mentorship
pairs**

Winter 2022 Applications Now Open

Due Friday, January 13, 2023

Pictured is Peter Neptune
(Passamaquoddy) showcasing his
sweetgrass braid.



WABANAKI
Traditional Arts
Mentorship Program

www.wabanakimmentor.org

The Wabanaki Traditional Arts Mentorship Program is accepting applications. The program provides teaching opportunities for experienced mentors to pass on their skills to qualified students. Students are Wabanaki tribal members living in the United States who are committed to learning a particular skill from the mentor, have some basic experience in or knowledge of the traditional art being taught, and are interested in continuing the skill beyond the mentorship. Up to \$3,000 is available for each pair's teaching fees, supplies, and travel costs.

Learn more about eligibility guidelines at www.wabanakimmentor.org

Application deadline: January 13, 2023

"If Not Us, Who?"

Recently Arts Commission staff were fortunate to experience in person the first live-streamed premiere of a theater piece created by incarcerated men at the Mountain View Correctional



Facility. Organized by Maine Inside Out in collaboration with the Maine Department of Corrections, eight brave participants worked together for 13 weeks to create a play about their lives. “I might be gone, but I’m not forgotten,” was one line. The play intersperses rap, action, still poses, re-enactments, poetry, testimonials -- every

player took turns sharing their stories. The play ended with each of them telling us directly, “I exist,” and then in a powerful chant together, “We exist.”

Here is a short film by Smooth Feather Productions about their programs If Not Us, Then Who?



For more information, [visit Maine Inside Out](#)

Grant Opportunity: Calling All Touring Jazz Musicians



Jazz Road Tours supports small, three-to six-site tours at an array of venue types, often in rural communities and other areas traditionally underserved by the genre.

This artist-centric grant program—designed to support approximately 50 tours each year—is made possible with funds from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation with additional support from the Mellon Foundation.

Grant amounts generally range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

- Applications open: January 23, 2023
- Deadline: March 1, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. ET
- Applicants Notified: May 15, 2023
- For Tours Taking Place: June 1, 2023 – January 15, 2024

[LEARN MORE HERE>](#)

NOW ACCEPTING

Production & Post-production LETTERS OF INQUIRY

DEADLINE: **Friday, January 20**

 MOVING IMAGE FUND

Attention New England nonfiction filmmakers: The LEF Foundation opened up Letter of Inquiry (LOI) submission forms for projects in Production and Post-production to award grants of \$15,000 and \$25,000, respectively.

[Read the full ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

[Apply HERE](#)



[Schoodic Arts for All](#) in Winter Harbor is making plans for their future and they need your help. They are undergoing a strategic planning process, and want to gather feedback and suggestions from the arts community to help establish their goals and priorities for the coming years.

[TAKE SURVEY](#)

The survey will take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete. At the end of the survey- participants have the opportunity to enter their name into a drawing to win a \$50 Visa Gift Card.

Maine Arts News & Opportunities

- [Creative Portland Hiring Programming & Office Associate](#)
- [Golden Haiku Poetry Contest - Submit By Feb. 5. Cash Awards](#)
- [River Arts Call for Art: "Passages" first juried show, submit art by Jan. 14](#)
- [Shakespeare In American Communities: Now accepting applications for the 2023-24 grant cycle](#)
- [Native Launchpad Program: Call for Application from Indigenous Performing Artists. Application deadline: Feb. 1](#)
- [Conversations from the Pointed Firs: WERU Interview with Stuart Kestenbaum](#)
- [National Call to Action: How Did School Districts Respond? - Wallace Foundation Report](#)
- [Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts 2023 Residency Opportunities](#)
- [Arctic Circle Residency Seeking Applications from international contemporary artists from all disciplines. Apply by Jan. 15](#)
- [Call for Artists & Creatives: Back To Basics Residency in Finland](#)
- [NEA Big Read \\$20,000 Grant Opportunity](#)
- [Call for Art: 19th Annual Bryn Du Art Show](#)
- [RJE Sprout Fund supporting artists with direct funds for projects that will be completed within a 12 month period](#)
- [Applications Open for Creative Forces Community Engagement Grants](#)
- [NEA and NEW Equity and Diversity Language in the FY 2023 Omnibus Bill](#)
- [Hometown Grant Opportunities:\\$50,000 to invest in local communities](#)
- [Top Ten Most Popular Articles for Cultural Executives in 2022](#)
- [Leipzig Festival of Lights, Call for Artists - Application Deadline: Jan 31](#)
- [NEA Literature Fellowships in Translation](#)

Events & Additional Opportunities

- [A Victorian Nutcracker: Community Performance, Merrill, Dec 22](#)
- [C. R. Bryant Exhibits At Richard Boyd Art Gallery, Dec. 23- 31](#)
- [Artist Cheryl Young Exhibits at Miles Memorial Hospital Dec. 31](#)
- [Book Talk with Jane Nylander: "The Best Ever!" Parades in New England, January 12, USM Franco Collection](#)
- [L/A Community Little Theatre Presents It's Only A Play, Opening Jan 19](#)
- [Make the Most of MANP: An Intro for Arts Organizations, Jan 24](#)
- [International Sculpture Center's Cultural Tours - Mexico City, Registration Now Open for a Warm Winter Art Getaway, February 7-12](#)
- [New England Arts Opportunities & National Opportunities](#)

